

12 **EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION**

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54 **Receptacle tampering sensor and indicator and method therefor.**

57 A reliable and low cost sensor and indicator (12) to be associated with a receptacle (1) filled with dosage forms (e.g. over-the-counter drugs) and a corresponding method by which to quickly and easily warn a consumer that an unauthorized tampering may have occurred to the receptacle and the contents (2) thereof. The tampering indicator is preferably either attached to or integrally formed with a seal (36) at the underside of a removable receptacle cap (8). The tampering indicator comprises a fluid filled reservoir (14), a tab (10) having a chemically treated indicator strip (22) thereat, and a fluid path (18, 24) by which fluid from the reservoir communicates with the indicator strip. The indicator is engaged by the rim (40) of the receptacle when the cap is positioned thereover by the dosage form manufacturer. Accordingly, fluid is forced from the reservoir into the fluid path. However, the fluid path is initially blocked at the engagement thereof by the receptacle rim. The tab and the indicator strip thereof extend outwardly from beneath the cap of the receptacle for providing the consumer with a visual indication in the event of an unauthorized removal of the cap from the receptacle. That is, should the cap be removed from the receptacle and the fluid path be moved out of engagement with the receptacle rim prior to a purchase by a consumer, whereupon tampering with the contents of the receptacle might occur, fluid from the supply

thereof is permitted to flow via the fluid path to the chemically treated strip, whereby to cause the strip to assume a characteristic color that is indicative of a possible tampering condition.

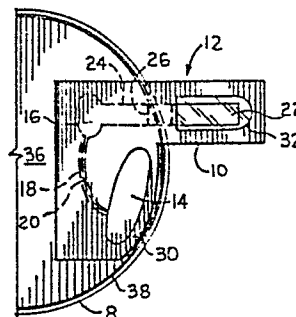


FIG. 2



DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int. Cl. 3)
A	FR-A-2 252 619 (BIO-MEDICAL SCIENCES) * Page 3, line 24 - page 4, line 5; figures 1,2 *	1	B 65 D 55/02
A	FR-A-2 361 074 (ROSEL) * Whole document *	1	
A	US-A-2 143 508 (COLLENS)		
A	AT-B- 307 976 (LUX)		
D,A	FR-A-2 243 887 (MINNESOTA MINING) & US - A - 3 923 198		TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int. Cl. 3)
D,A	US-A-3 896 965 (CORNELL)		B 65 D
D,A	FR-A-2 247 396 (MATBURN LTD.) & US - A - 3 952 869		
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search THE HAGUE		Date of completion of the search 18-03-1985	Examiner MARTENS L.G.R.
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS			
X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document		T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document	